



SIRJ began in 2012 offering victim-offender mediation as a formal alternative to court and detention for first time, juvenile offenders.

Mediation is a voluntary, cooperative problem solving process in which qualified and neutral mediators assist people to resolve disputes and make decisions by mutual agreement.

SIRJ utilizes a collaborative approach to justice based on proven models in the U.S. and around the world.

As the place where youth spend most of their day, schools play a fundamental role in helping their students avoid justice-system involvement, which can have lifelong negative consequences. SIRJ is devoted to assisting families in conflict in an effort to keep youth in the classroom and out of the courtroom.

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*Salina Initiative for Restorative Justice*

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SALINA  
/ INITIATIVE FOR  
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**Parent-  
Adolescent  
Mediation**

**A NEW WAVE FOR A  
BETTER COMMUNITY**

**Tel: 785-825-5965**

## Parent Adolescent Mediation:

Parent-Adolescent Mediation (PAM) helps families resolve conflicts of everyday living. At the same time, it lets parents and young people learn new ways of handling the strong emotions of family conflict.

Family members work with a mediator to discuss issues such as:

- school attendance and performance
- curfew and social life
- household chores
- privacy and communication.

The goal is to develop mutually agreed upon solutions as a family.

## How does it work?

First, mediators arrange individual meetings with the adolescent and his or her parent. During that session, the mediator will provide information on the process, gain an understanding of the issues, and make an assessment whether mediation is appropriate.

Finally, a joint session will be arranged for both the parent and adolescent to meet together with the mediator. The mediator guides the family to identify issues, explore options, encourage productive communication and provide a written agreement, if requested.

## Why Mediation?

Parent-Adolescent Mediation helps young people and their families resolve conflict and develop new styles of communication. It allows for equal input from family members to decide how their dispute will be resolved. Mediation tends to be short-term and focuses on resolving current issues and planning for the future. PAM is appropriate for young people aged from 10-18 years old.

Our mediators come from a variety of backgrounds, including law, education, social work, clergy, public administration, and law enforcement. Mediation is confidential. However, there is a limit to confidentiality. Information about harm or suspected harm to self, children, other people, property, or potential or past involvement in criminal acts may not be confidential.

## How much does it cost?

In collaboration with the Saline County Truancy Panel and Saline County Attorney's Office, the parent-adolescent mediation program within SIRJ is fully funded for the 2020-2021 school year from the generosity of a grant from the Salina Charities League and the fiscal sponsorship of the Salina Area United Way.

